

Reed Building
(Maroon's Department Store)
(Centre Market Square Historic District)
2125 Market Street
Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-185

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26-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

REED BUILDING
(Maroon Department Store)

HABS NO. WV-185

Location: 2125 Market Street, Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia.
Present Owner: John Maroon.
Present Occupant: Maroon's Department Store.
Present Use Store and upstairs apartment.
Significance: This 1885 dry goods store has a long history of mercantile activity in the Centre Market area of Wheeling. The Market Street facade reveals a sharp distinction between the commercial and residential functions of the building. The first floor facade has little relieving design while the second floor facade is replete with elaborate decorative detail. The many years of continuous mercantile activity in the Reed Building have proven that a building's facade is its own best advertisement.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of Erection: c. 1885. The 1886 Land Book states that the value of buildings on the property had increased by \$3100.00 with the addition of a building.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Reed Building is built 46' off the north side of Lot 110, Eoff and Chapline Addition. The following references tracing the Title of this property are found in the Ohio County, West Virginia Deed Books.

1854 Deed, 23 June, recorded in Deed Book 39, page 538. George Hardman and wife to William Holliday, Ebenezer McCoy, and Robert Higgins, Trustees of the Christian (Disciples) Church in Wheeling. \$600.00 for property 46' off the north side of Lot 110 of Eoff and Chapline Addition.

1875 Deed, 3 November, recorded in Deed Book 64, page 234. W. R. Holliday et al to Mary A. Reed, widow \$2,500.00 for part Lot 110, Eoff and Chapline Addition.

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- 1882 Deed, 14 June, recorded in Deed Book 73, page 1. J. A. McCoy Trustee for Ebenezer McCoy, (deceased) to Mary A. Reed \$5.00 for the McCoy interest in part of Lot 110, Eoff and Chapline Addition.
- 1899 Will, probated 23 February, and recorded in Will Book 8, page 377. Mary A. Reed devised to James Reed. "Item First: the property down on west side of Market Street and the south side of Alley 18 in the said City of Wheeling known as the Disciples Church property."
- 1900 Will probated 25 July and recorded in Will Book 8, page 500. James Reed devised to Anna Reed, Charles B. Reed and John L. Reed Item Fifth: "all the rest and residue of my estate".
- 1901 Deed, 8 May, recorded in Deed Book 105, page 324. J. Albert Dunaway to John T. Reed and Anna Reed \$10.00 for interest in part Lot 110, Eoff and Chapline Addition.
- 1901 Deed, 21 June, recorded in Deed Book 105, page 556. Alfred Caldwell, Special Commissioner to John T. Reed and Anna Reed \$1,860.00 for part Lot 110, Eoff and Chapline Addition
- 1902 Deed, 29 March, recorded in Deed Book 108, page 158. A. G. Fickersin, Trustee in Bankruptcy for Charles B. Reed to John T. Reed and Anna Reed \$2,025.00 for 1/4 interest in part Lot 110, Eoff and Chapline Addition.
- 1921 Deed, 25 July, recorded in Deed Book 178, page 190. John T. Reed and wife and Anna Reed to Asad Maroon part of Lot 110, Eoff and Chapline Addition.
4. Original Plans, Construction, etc.: None known
5. Alterations and additions: According to Mr. John Maroon, son of Asad Maroon, who is continuing the family business, this building used to house two stores on the first floor. After Asad Maroon took possession, the two stores were consolidated into one by removing the wall partitioning the shops. The original posts remain in position. Such a consolidation would have necessitated an entirely new store front with a single entryway. There appear to have been no further structural changes done to the building.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the structure:

Mary Ann Reed, the wife of James Reed a local druggist, purchased the Disciples Church property in 1875. About 1885 she built a structure designed to provide shop space for two businesses on the first floor and apartment space upstairs.

The 1888 Callins' City Directory records that druggist John T. Reed, son of James and Mary Ann Reed, had his shop at 2125 Market Street. Because this was a double store, a boot and shoe dealer, H. J. Schultz, conducted his business at 2127 Market Street in the same building. Charles B. Reed, a brother of John, was listed in the same city directory as being a bookkeeper at Harper Brothers, who rented at 2127 Market Street on the second story. The rest of the Reed family, including James, a retired druggist, and his two children, Annie and John T., lived at 2129 Market Street.

Mary Ann Reed, wife of James, left him her property on Market Street when she died in 1899. He died the following year and devised "all the rest and residue of my estate" to his children, Anna, Charles B. and John T. Reed.

John T. Reed and his sister Anna continued to hold this property until 1921, when he sold it to Asad Maroon. During the intervening years John had rented the building to several local merchants. At the time when Asad Maroon took possession of the Reed Building Enicg and Marker Church Supply and E. B. Potts Grocery Store were conducting business at 2125-2127 Market Street. According to Maroon's son, John, his father bought this brick building rather than another because he wanted to be "where all the action is." Asad Maroon decided to consolidate the two shops into a single large showroom. This necessitated the construction of an entirely new storefront with a single entrance into the store. For a time the shop was then known as "The Fair Store".

Asas Maroon's son, John, continues to operate this store. It is known today as Maroon's Department Store and offers the same variety of dry goods which it offered in Asad Maroon's day and at extremely reasonable prices.

C. Sources of Information:

Callin's Wheeling City Directory, 1888

News-Register, May 18, 1976

Prepared by: Candace Reed,
Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
September, 1976

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This combination store and living quarters has a finely proportioned facade of large store front elements below balanced by individual window units above and capped by a heavy bracketed cornice.
2. Condition of fabric: Moderately good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately thirty-nine feet across the front (east) by fifty-four feet deep for the original building. There is an additional twelve foot deep early addition on the rear. Rectangular shape, five front bays, two stories high.
2. Foundations: Appear to be coursed brick and masonry. However, the basement was not accessible for closer observation.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The exterior walls are brick with the exception of a small three foot deep contemporary wood frame addition at the rear. The brick of the original building is painted maroon.
4. Structural system, framing: Not accessible.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc: The entry is slightly elevated and recessed.
6. Chimneys: Six brick chimneys, five on the main building and one on the addition.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: There are two doors in the front. One, near the center of the facade, is an entry to the store area. The other, along the extreme left (south) side leads to a second-floor apartment. The apartment door is six-paneled with a glass transom above and flanked by a pilaster casing on each side.

The store door has a large glass pane and a glass transom. It is probably not original. There is a narrow double door on the north side, first floor. It appears to be a service door. At the rear there is a door on the second floor, opening onto a fire escape.

- b. Windows and shutters: There are large display windows in the front, first floor facade. The right side (north) is original while the left side (south) has been replaced with an aluminum frame. There are five windows across the second floor front. They are double hung with a single pane, each sash. Above each is a decorative wood lintel. There are windows on the second floor north and rear (west). There were originally windows at the first floor rear. These were closed when the addition was added, but they are visible from the interior.
8. Roof:
- a. The roof of the original section sloped slightly from front to back. The addition, which is slightly lower, has a flat roof. Both are covered with tar paper.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The heavy bracketed front cornice is particularly striking. There are five sets of large double brackets with three smaller ones in between each set. The frieze extends nearly the full depth of the large brackets and is embellished with decorative details.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans: The owner allowed access to only the large open space of the first floor commercial area. It extends across the entire front with the exception of the stair to the second floor and back about fifty feet. There is apparently a storage area to the rear of this. There is an apartment above, on the second floor and also a basement, which was inaccessible.
 2. Stairways: There is one stairway along the south wall, leading to the second floor apartment. It opens directly to the outside on Market St.
 3. Flooring: Wood floors were observed in the part accessible.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceiling of the store are entirely of pressed tin, in a rectangular design. There are circular patterns in the tin ceiling at six places where light fixtures were originally hung. All walls and the ceiling are painted gray.

5. Doors and doorways: There is one door at the rear of the store, presumably leading to a storage area at that level.
6. Decorative features: The tin walls and ceiling previously mentioned.

D. Site and Surroundings:

The building fronts directly onto Market Street and faces east. It is abutted directly on the south by a two story structure, and there is a brick paved alley directly to the north. The site slopes slightly from north to south across the front and more abruptly to the rear. The nearest building to the rear is about fifty feet away. There are no outbuildings on the property.

Prepared by: John McRae
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
September, 1976

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, in cooperation with the Friends of Wheeling, Inc. The measured drawings were made during the summer of 1976 under the supervision of John M. McCrae (University of Florida) with architectural technicians Mark L. Hall, Foreman, (Pennsylvania State University); Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University); Ruthie D. Wiley (Mississippi State University); Alan G. Wilig (City College of New York); and Architectural Historian Candace Reed (George Washington University). The photographs were taken in 1977 by HABS Photographer Jack E. Boucher.